To The Wrichcombe Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honor to present my annual report for the past year as Medical Officer of Health for your District, and in doing so I Enclose a number of Tables giving Various Kinds of Information in regard to the health of the District.

Table I. Shows the Vital Statistics of the Whole District for 1906 giving the number and Rates per 1000 of Births, & of deaths under one year and at all ages, and the data on which the nett death rate is based.
The Corresponding Information for Each of the past 10 years is also given so that a comparison may be made. The Various averages for that period is also Shown.
I am pleased to point out that the Birth Rate is above the average as Compared with that for 10 previous years - being 27.1 per 1000 against 24.9 per 1000 - While the death Rate is Slightly below the average (14.4 against 14.6).

Table II gives the Births & deaths distributed among the Localities to which they belong with corresponding figures for the past 10 years and the averages for those years.
These need no Special comment.

Table III Shows the number of Notified Cases of Infectious Disease during the year classified according to the ages of the patients, and the localities to which they belong.

and also the number of cases removed to the Isolation Hospital from each locality.
The chief points of interest are the cases of Diphtheria which have occurred in Winchcombe viz 34 and the number of cases of Enteric or Typhoid fever which broke out at Woodmancote a Hamlet of Bishops Cleeve viz 17.
I have made a special report to you on these subjects & therefore need not now refer to them except to say that the prompt measures taken by you under the advice of your Officers quickly arrested the outbreak on Cleeve Hill and at the time of writing there has not been a case of Diphtheria notified in Winchcombe for 5 weeks -
Other Zymotic (or what I would call preventable diseases) have not been present at all in an Epidemic form in any part of the District.

Table IV provides the Classification of the deaths according to Causes, ages and localities, and here again the number of deaths from Diphtheria (7) is excessive and will be referred to again -

Table V gives the infant mortality - that is the deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 registered Births
This is 88.3 -
This Table also shows the various ages from one day to one year at which these deaths occurred -
There is no doubt that the number of

these deaths might be reduced, if the poor could be taught how to manage their infants better.

The District from its natural formation and population is a very healthy one. About half of it is situated on the Cotswold Hills at altitudes varying from 500 to 1000 feet on limestone rock. With a natural rapid drainage and an Excellent water Supply.
The other half lies at the foot of these hills still sloping down towards the bed of the river Severn giving a good drainage fall and an Excellent Supply of water from the hills.
The Subsoil of this Vale half is chiefly Clay intersected by Veins of Gravel.
As is well known the chief occupation in the district is agriculture, tho' there is a Paper, a leather and a jam Factory which Employ a considerable number of woman as well as men.
As I have before reported to you house accommodation for the working classes is in many places not good. I am quite aware that this opens up one of the most difficult problems of Social life but I feel certain that if only good Cottages could be provided with a small piece of land around them many of those who are now leaving this and similar Districts for the towns would remain in their Country homes.

Better Railway facilities are now provided and these must help to improve the District in various ways which will occur to Everyone's mind.

The question of Sewage in the Small Villages which form the chief part of the District gives no trouble. — In very few of them is a Sewer required, but a portion of the District in Woodmancote Situated on Cleeve Hill has caused a great amount of trouble and anxiety owing to the delay from various causes - in Carrying out a System of Sewage which was for some time known to be needed.

I hope Your Council will be particularly careful not to Sanction the occupation of any new houses which might be built in the line of the Waterbed running from the recently infected one and Situated below it. There is no doubt the occupants would be exposed to a source of great danger. The Sewage works on Cleeve Hill appear to be progressing and I hope will soon be completed.

The question of the Sewage of Winchcombe has been thoroughly discussed and reported on by me so that I need hardly refer to it. I have several times & for many years past reported the bad State of the privies generally in Winchcombe and also the careless way in which they, and pail closets with their necessary heaps of vegetable refuse and Stale pail-washs are placed by their owners in regard to their own houses and

those of their neighbours.
If a System of Sewage was adopted for Whitchcombe the necessary bye laws would follow which would regulate and remedy all this but I do not see the Economy or good Sense of trying to improve this bad State of things without providing the means for a better substitute.
As I reported to you, it is this bad Sanitary Condition around the Houses combined with bad Sewage Arrangements which are in my opinion responsible for the outbreak of Diphtheria in Whitchcombe Your new Isolation Hospital has worked well and has been of great assistance in the two Epidemics referred to.
Nothing has been done under the Factory & Workshop Act in this District, because there are no places requiring the adoption of the Act. The same may be said of the Bakehouse Section of the Act.
You have recently adopted the Dairies & Milkshops Act, and I am sure the District will benefit by your so doing.
I may here remark that all milk for Children should be Sterilized. It can be done most Easily & Simply and is the only Safeguard against milk infection from Various diseases such as Scarlet fever. Diphtheria, Typhoid fever and more Especially Tuberculosis.
I hope those better Educated and Who Know how to carry it out will use their Influence and Knowledge in the matter

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amongst the poor. They will be doing a most useful work.
The Schools have been closed in the district for various reasons as follows.
Winchcombe Girls School in March for Diphtheria.
Winchcombe Girls and Infants Schools in November for Diphtheria.

Had it not been for these 2 outbreaks of Diphtheria & Enteric fever the year 1906 would have been an excellent one from a health point of view.

I have the honor to remain
Gentlemen
Your Obedient Servant
Jno Cox
M.O.H.

Winchcombe
Feb: 12. 07.

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